

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF

SAWBRIDGEWORTH

FOR 1903.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD :
MARDON BROS., "OBSERVER" PRINTING WORKS, NORTH STREET.

MCMIV.

THE RED HOUSE,

SAWBRIDGEWORTH,

February 22nd, 1904.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report for the past year.

The statistical part is fairly satisfactory, but does not compare favourably with that of 1902.

The drainage scheme—the admirable plans of which, prepared by F. H. Anson, Esq., C.E., I have recently had the opportunity of seeing—is a large, expensive, but necessary undertaking, and when completed will I am convinced transform the Town into one of the most desirable residential districts near London.

In offering you my best thanks for the kind consideration you have invariably shown me, I cannot but regret your tenure of office is about to expire—not only for my own sake, but more especially on account of this district, which you represent—I sincerely hope the Electors will return as their representatives, all the members of the old Council who seek re-election.

I also tender my thanks to Mr. Morris and Mr. Watts, both of whom give me much assistance.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ETHELBERT COLLINS.

SAWBRIDGEWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1903.

GENTLEMEN,

I have now the pleasure of presenting to you my Annual Report on the health of the Town.

CHIEF STATISTICS.

						1901.
Population by Census	...	...	...	...	...	2085
Acreage (exclusive of water)	..	...	...	...	...	2660
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	461
Average density of population per house	...	...	...	...	...	4'5
	1901.	1902.	1903.			
Number of Deaths registered	...	29	22	26		
Corrections	...	+8	+1	+4		
Corrected Death Rate	...	13'9	10'5	12'4	per 1000 of the population.	
Birth Rate	...	26'8	28'24	25'4	„	„
Zymotic Death Rate	Nil.	Nil.	1'4	„	„	„
Diarrhoea	...	Nil.	Nil.	'49	„	„
Phthisis	...	'9	'9	1'4	„	„
Cancer	...	'9	'4	'49	„	„
Infant Mortality	142'8	67'7	132'07	„	Births.	

Total deaths over 65 years of age, 10.

The death rate, although higher than that of last year, is well below the average for rural England. The increase is due to a number of deaths occurring in old people from natural decay, or from diseases attributable to old age.

The Infantile Mortality rate is much too high, the reason for this is that out of the seven deaths, which occurred in infants under one year of age, three were due to what one might term “accidental causes,” viz. : two infants—twins—died a few days after birth from inanition, another infant died from the effects of a congenital malformation.

I point this out to show the high infant death rate was not due to any prevailing disease, or want of care on the part of the mothers. If one could exclude these three deaths, then the infantile mortality rate would be 71·4, which would compare favourably with other districts.

The low birth rate in your district is in sympathy with that of England and Wales, a slowly declining one. The reason is not far to seek, and can only be remedied by legislative measures.

Housing of the Working Classes.

The need is great for better cottages for the working classes. Dr. Mansfield Robinson's eloquent appeals to your Council urging the necessity of providing more suitable dwellings for workmen will I trust in the near future command your best consideration.

Sewerage and Drainage.

This most important matter is now receiving the attention of your Council. An eminent engineer has been asked to prepare plans for a comprehensive sewerage scheme for the whole district, and to advise as to the best method of disposal of the sewage. The plans are promised early in the New Year ; so I trust the district will ere long be equipped with a proper system of sewers combined with the bacterial method of disposal of sewage.

I strongly advise your Council to drain the whole district and not to adopt any "patching up" scheme. The extra call upon the rates, which will of necessity arise, will soon be counterbalanced by the development of the Town, and *pari passu* an increased rateable value.

House Refuse.

Removed twice a week by the public scavenger, the work is satisfactorily done ; few complaints are heard of.

Water Supply.

The District is chiefly supplied by the Herts and Essex Water Company. The supply is intermittent, consequently the inhabitants are frequently put to great inconvenience. A constant supply of water from the mains is very desirable, especially from a public health point of view. The water is of excellent purity.

A water supply to Clay Lane is still needed.

Nuisances.

Twenty nuisances were detected, and abated. Many still exist caused by the emptying and overflowing of cesspools. These cannot be dealt with until the District is properly sewered.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

Three cases of notifiable infectious diseases were reported during the year.

Diphtheria 1.

Scarlet Fever 2.

The case of Diphtheria was removed to the Isolation Hospital. The disease was traced to defective sanitary surroundings, which were at once remedied. No other case occurred. Disinfection was thoroughly carried out.

The two cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in the same family, both were removed to the Isolation Hospital. The origin of infection could not be traced. The house, bedding, etc., were carefully disinfected.

An outbreak of Measles, which became epidemic, towards the end of the year necessitated the closing of the British and National Schools. One death was the result of the epidemic.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops and Slaughterhouses.

All are regularly inspected and are satisfactory.

Inspection of the Town.

This has been done regularly and systematically both by myself and the Sanitary Officer.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903 and Previous Years.

Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Number	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Number.	Rate.
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate					
1901	2085	56	25·8	8	142·8	21	10·07		8	29	13·9	
1902	2085	59	28·24	4	67·79	21	10·07		1	22	10·5	
1903	2085	53	25·4	7	132·07	22	10·5		4	26	12·4	

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Bishop’s Stortford Union.

Total population at all ages...	...	2085
Number of inhabited houses...	...	461
Average number of persons per house	...	4·5

At Census of 1901.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—2660.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

Cause of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Measles	1	1					
Whooping-cough	2		2				
Enteritis	1	1					
Phthisis	3				1	2	
Cancer, malignant disease	1						1
Bronchitis... .. .	2	1				1	
Other diseases of Respira- tory Organs... .. .	1					1	
Heart diseases	2						2
Accidents	1						1
All other causes	12	4	1			1	6
All causes	26	7	3		1	5	10

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the Year 1903.

Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards
Diphtheria						I	
Scarlet Fever				2			
Totals	3			2		I	

Isolation Hospital—Bishop's Stortford.

Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector in the
Urban District of Sawbridgeworth during the Year ending
December 31st, 1903.

	Total Number for Year.	Notes, Results of Inspection, etc.
Complaints received	10	
Nuisances detected without com- plaint	20	
Nuisances abated	20	
Notices served	1	
Cottages inspected	150	
Slaughter-houses inspected ...	1	
Bakehouses inspected	5	
Dairies & Milk Shops inspected	2	
Cowsheds inspected	2	
Workshops inspected	18	
Houses disinfected	2	
Overcrowding abated	4	
Houses closed	1	
Wells cleansed or repaired ...	1	
Houses connected with sewers ...	10	
Houses connected with water mains	10	
Earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed or existing Privies altered	4	
Inspection of Barges... ..	15	

Signed,
A. T. WATTS.

SAWBRIDGEWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the Administration of the Factory and Workshop Act for 1903.

There are thirty-four workshops in the District which are subject to the provisions of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, viz. :—

Workshops 13.

Factories 0.

Work places 16.

Bakehouses 5.

Sanitary Condition.

The sanitary condition of all the workshops is on the whole satisfactory. Cleanliness is observed in most instances ; there is sufficient air space in all the workshops, ventilation is sufficient, and sanitary conveniences are usually provided. No “ wet processes ” are carried on in any of the workshops.

Special Sanitary Regulations for Bakehouses.

The bakehouses are clean and in a sanitary condition. The special regulations of the Act are carried out.

Home Work.

The dwellings in which Home work is being carried on are suitable for the purpose. Ventilation and sanitary arrangements are good, there is no overcrowding.

There are no out-workers in the District.

A Register of Workshops is kept.

ETHELBERT COLLINS,

Medical Officer of Health.